

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1313
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007
PLIGHT OF ONION GROWERS
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the onion growers all over the country, especially in Karnataka are facing a deep crisis due to fall of wholesale onion prices;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has received requests from respective States for increase in the minimum support price of onions;
- (c) whether the Government has put a ban on export of onion as a measure to bring down retail price of onion;
- (d) if so, the whether this has led to further decline in wholesale prices; and
- (e) if so, the steps being taken to tackle this situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): The prices of onion in the country, measured in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) had declined in the week ending 3rd November 2007 by 1.19% over the previous week. But it was higher by 2.72% when compared with the previous month and higher by 19.43% over the period of one year from 3rd November 2007. The month-end wholesale prices of local onion at Mysore and Rellibebur markets in Karnataka which had been in the range of Rs.300- Rs.425 per quintal in September, 2006 ruled in the range of Rs.650-Rs.950 per quintal in September, 2007 indicating buoyancy in prices of onion.

(b): No, Sir. Government has not received any request from States for increasing the prices of onion.

(c) to (e): The market prices of onion having ruled very high in the recent past, the Government took measures to make additional quantities of onion available in the domestic markets by bringing onion under the Restricted List of Items of export for a limited period. As such, export of onion was not banned.